

Select Special

Ethics Commissioner Search Committee

Report of the Committee

Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Second Session
May 7, 2014



COMMITTEES
OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Select Special Ethics Commissioner
Search Committee (2013-14)
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SELECT SPECIAL ETHICS COMMISSIONER SEARCH COMMITTEE

CHAIR:

GEORGE ROGERS, MLA
Leduc-Beaumont

DEPUTY CHAIR:

SOHAIL QUADRI, MLA
Edmonton-Mill Woods

MEMBERS:

LAURIE BLAKEMAN, MLA
Edmonton-Centre

DAVID EGGEN, MLA
Edmonton-Calder

HECTOR GOUDREAU, MLA
Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley

KEN LEMKE, MLA
Stony Plain

GENIA LESKIW, MLA
Bonnyville-Cold Lake

EVERETT McDONALD, MLA
Grande Prairie-Smoky

SHAYNE SASKIW, MLA
Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills

May 7, 2014

**To the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
of the Province of Alberta**

The Select Special Ethics Commissioner Search Committee has the honour to submit its report containing the recommendation of a candidate to the position of Ethics Commissioner for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by Chair]

George Rogers, MLA
Chair, Select Special Ethics Commissioner
Search Committee

c. Dr. David McNeil
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

**SELECT SPECIAL
ETHICS COMMISSIONER
SEARCH COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Chair:

Mr. George Rogers, MLA
Leduc-Beaumont (PC)

Deputy Chair:

Mr. Sohail Quadri, MLA
Edmonton-Mill Woods (PC)

Members:

Ms Laurie Blakeman, MLA
Edmonton-Centre (AL)

Mr. David Eggen, MLA
Edmonton-Calder (ND)

Mr. Hector Goudreau, MLA
Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley (PC)

Mr. Ken Lemke, MLA
Stony Plain (PC)

Mrs. Genia Leskiw, MLA
Bonnyville-Cold Lake (PC)

Mr. Everett McDonald, MLA
Grande Prairie-Smoky (PC)

Mr. Shayne Saskiw, MLA
Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (W)

Substitution Pursuant to Standing Order 56(2.1-2.4):

Mr. Jason Luan, MLA¹
Calgary-Hawkwood (PC)

¹ Substitution for Mr. Hector Goudreau, MLA, on December 18, 2013

COMMITTEE MANDATE

Government Motion 55 [December 3, 2013]

Be it resolved that:

1. A Select Special Ethics Commissioner Search Committee of the Legislative Assembly be appointed consisting of the following Members, namely: Rogers (Chair), Quadri (Deputy Chair), Blakeman, Eggen, Goudreau, Lemke, Leskiw, McDonald, Saskiw, for the purpose of inviting applications for the position of Ethics Commissioner and to recommend to the Assembly the applicant it considers most suitable to this position.
2. Reasonable disbursements by the Committee for advertising, staff assistance, equipment and supplies, rent, travel, and other expenditures necessary for the effective conduct of its responsibilities shall be paid, subject to the approval of the Chair.
3. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Committee may, with the concurrence of the head of the department, utilize the services of members of the public service employed in that department, and of the staff employed by the Assembly.
4. The Committee may, without leave of the Assembly, sit during a period when the Assembly is adjourned or prorogued and may continue performing its work in a subsequent session of the Assembly.

When its work has been completed, the Committee shall report to the Assembly if it is sitting but during a period when the Assembly is adjourned or prorogued, the Committee may release its report by depositing a copy with the Clerk and forwarding a copy to each Member of the Assembly.

RECOMMENDATION

At the May 7, 2014, meeting of the Select Special Ethics Commissioner Search Committee the following motion was passed unanimously by the Committee:

MOVED by Ms Blakeman that the Select Special Ethics Commissioner Search Committee approve the draft report dated May 7, 2014, and recommend to the Legislative Assembly the appointment of the Hon. Marguerite Trussler, Q.C., to the position of Ethics Commissioner, for a term of five years, effective May 26, 2014, and authorize the Speaker to enter into a contract with the Hon. Ms Trussler effective at the time of the appointment.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Committee held a total of seven meetings, starting with an organizational meeting on December 18, 2013, and completed its mandate at the May 7, 2014, meeting. The Committee, with the assistance of Legal Services, Communications, Human Resource Services and Committee Services support staff from the Legislative Assembly Office as well as senior staff from Executive Search, Alberta Corporate Human Resources, developed guidelines for advertising, a position profile, a search timetable and general procedures.

An advertisement for the position of Ethics Commissioner was placed nationally in the *Globe and Mail* as well as the *National Post*. The advertisement also ran Alberta's daily newspapers, the *Edmonton Journal*, the *Calgary Herald*, *Fort McMurray Today*, *Grande Prairie Daily Herald Tribune*, *Red Deer Advocate*, *Lethbridge Herald* and *Medicine Hat News*. The advertisement and position profile were posted on the external committee website with links to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta jobs website and the websites for the Office of the Ethics Commissioner, the Council of Governmental Ethics Laws, and the Canadian Bar Association.

The Committee received a total of 37 applications for the position of Ethics Commissioner; 30 of these were from Alberta, six were received from candidates in other provinces and one application was received from outside of Canada. At the request of the Committee, Executive Search completed comprehensive screening reports for each candidate, and the Committee reviewed the resumés along with the screening reports to determine a candidate short list for preliminary interviews. At the direction of the Committee, Executive Search conducted preliminary interviews with 10 candidates and reported back to the Committee. The Committee chose to conduct final interviews with five candidates; however, one candidate withdrew from the competition prior to the final interviews, which were held on April 10 and 11, 2014.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee appreciates the expertise and professionalism of Ms Trish Mills, Director of Executive Search, and Ms Jean Easton, Executive Search Consultant, Alberta Corporate Human Resources, as well as the assistance of the support staff from the Legislative Assembly Office.

BIOGRAPHY

Biography of Hon. Marguerite Trussler, Q.C.

Marguerite Trussler is a third generation Albertan. She was born in Edmonton, raised in Calgary and has spent her working years in Edmonton. She was a partner at Parlee McLaws law firm, followed by 20 years' service on the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, and since 2007 has been the chair of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission. She has a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Alberta, a Master of Laws from the University of Melbourne and was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Alberta.

During her time on the Bench she was instrumental in implementing many lasting reforms in the area of family law. She was also the president of the Canadian Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges and a member of the editorial board of the Canadian Bar Review. Prior to her appointment to the Bench she was chair of the Joint Legislative Review Committee of the Law Society and the Canadian Bar Association. She also co-authored a textbook on mortgage foreclosure law in Alberta with her husband.

More recently Marguerite has been the President of the Victoria School Foundation for the Arts, the chair of the steering committee of the Institute of Health Economics Alberta Initiatives on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and a member of the local chapter executive of the Institute of Corporate Directors. She is also a member of the Legal Community Theatre Fundraiser committee.

She is married to Sir Francis Price, Bt., Q.C. and they have 3 adult daughters and 3 granddaughters.